

CLAIMS:

N 1. The method of processing substantially rectangular shaped tread strips salvaged from tire carcasses having two shorter ends and two longer sides to obtain patterned strips of precise dimension and shape comprising in combination the steps of:

passing the strips from one end longitudinally through a power actuated strip feeder, and

shaping the strips along their length during the transit of the strips through the strip feeder.

N 2. The method of claim 1 comprising the more detailed shaping step of slicing off edge portions of the strips to obtain a strip of precision width during transport of the tread strips through the strip feeder.

N 3. The method defined in Claim 1 comprising the more detailed shaping step of introducing a set of longitudinally spaced patterns along opposite strip longitudinal edges.

N 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said patterns comprise indentations in a surface of the tread strip opposite to the tread.

N 5. The method defined in Claim 1 comprising the more detailed shaping step of punching apertures through the tread strip.

6. The method defined in Claim 1 comprising the more detailed shaping step of cutting at least one end of the tread strip to define a tread strip of precision length.

7. The method defined in Claim 1 comprising the more detailed shaping step of shaving the tread surface of the tread strip to establish tread strips of uniform thickness.

8. The method defined in Claim 1 comprising the more detailed shaping step of shaping the tread strips in different ways at two sequential stations along the strip transit path.

9. The method defined in Claim 8 further including the step of synchronizing the timing of the shaping step procedures at the two sequential stations to precisely locate the respective shaping procedures at the two stations at designated regions along the length of the tread strips.

10. Apparatus for processing substantially rectangular shaped tread strips salvaged from tire carcasses having two shorter ends and two longer sides to obtain patterned strips of precise dimension and shape comprising in combination: power actuated strip feeder means for grasping one shorter end of the tread strips and passing them through a linear transit path, and strip shaping means along the length thereof operable during the transit of the strips through said linear transit path.

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11. The apparatus of Claim 10 further comprising means for providing tread strips of uniform width from tread strips for producing precisely dimensioned products with stacked layers of tread strips having slicing means operable at designated spacings near opposite edges of raw input tread strips to cut away edges and produce uniform longitudinal strip widths between said two shorter ends as the strips pass through the strip feeder.

12. Apparatus defined in Claim 10 wherein the strip shaping means comprises two sequential shaping devices for shaping the tread strips in different ways at two sequential stations along the strip transit path.

✓ 13. The apparatus defined in Claim 12 further including timing means for synchronizing the timing of the shaping step procedures at the two sequential stations to precisely locate the respective shaping procedures at the two stations at designated regions along the length of the tread strips.

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✓ 14. Apparatus as defined in Claim 10 wherein the shaping means comprises indentation means for introducing a set of longitudinally spaced indentation patterns extending along the length of the strips and disposed along opposite strip longitudinal edges.

✓ 15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said indentation patterns comprise indentations in a surface of the tread strip opposite to the tread.

✓ 17. Apparatus defined in Claim 10 wherein the shaping means comprises cutting means for laterally cutting at least one end of the tread strip to define a tread strip of precision length.

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